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The corvette 'Napanee'

Flower Class corvettes long Forecastle.

Programme year 1939-1940

Laid down 20 March, 1940.

Launched 31 August, 1940.

Kingston Ship Building Company.

Commissioned 12 May, 1941.

Machinery manufactured by the Dominion Engineering Co.

Forecastle extension completed 19,October, 1943.

Specifications.	Displacement	1,085 Tons	
	Length extreme	205' 1"	
	Breadth extreme	33' 1"	
	Draught Forward	12' 3"	(At full Load)
	Draught Aft	16' 0"	(" " ")

Designed Horsepower 2,750 HP

Mean horsepower on trials 2,750 HP 1 Shaft

Designed speed 16.5 Knots

Trial Speed 16.0 Knots

Estimated full speed at full draught 16.0 Knots.

Endurance 3,450 N.M. at 12 Knots.

At full speed 2,630 N.M.(at 16.0 Knots)

Fuel load 230 Tons of F.F.O.

Complement 7 officers 78 men

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NAPANEE = ONTARIO

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HMCS NAPANEE

Mrs. Angus L. Macdonald, wife of the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, sponsored HMCS NAPANEE at her launching in the yard of the Kingston Ship Building Company Ltd., at Kingston, Ontario on 31 August 1940. The namesake town is only twenty-five miles from Kingston and was doubtless represented on the occasion.

The ship was a "Flower" Class corvette. Her keel was laid on 20 March 1940 and she was commissioned on 12 May 1941. She measured 203 feet in length, 33 in the beam and drew 12 feet, displacing 1,170 tons. Her armament was one four-inch gun forward, a two-pounder pom-pom aft and twenty-five depth charges with two rails and two throwers. After having her forecastle lengthened in 1943, she also had two 20-mm Oerlikon guns, two more depth-charge throwers and carried seventy depth charges.

Her ship's company adopted, as an unofficial badge, a profile drawing of the head of an Indian chief in war paint and bonnet devouring a U-boat stern first.

NAPANEE arrived at Halifax on 18 May 1941, and after a period for final adjustments to her gear and to work up her crew, she sailed on her first operational assignment, local escort for a transatlantic convoy, on 18 June. She was soon transferred to the Sydney Force and remained with it until the end of September when she was allocated to the Mid-Ocean Escort Force, based at St. John's, Newfoundland. She continued in this hard service, escorting convoys to the longitude of Iceland at first, later into the Western Approaches to Britain, until 20 May 1942 when she arrived in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, for refit.

The work was complete by 20 July and, after a call at Halifax, NAPANEE returned to St. John's where her first two assignments were escorting in a freighter damaged by a torpedo and HMCS ASSINIBOINE who had rammed and sunk a U-boat after a bitter fight on the surface.

the Second World War: she was built in haste, run hard for four years and discarded as soon as the U-boat campaign in the Atlantic was finished because submarines had developed so that the corvette could no longer counter them. They were, however, the ships of the hour in 1941 and 1942, the main strength of the convoy system. NAPANEE's service will earn the battle honour, ATLANTIC 1941-45, for any subsequent ship of the name.

Naval Historical Section,
Canadian Forces Headquarters,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.
21 April, 1965.